

[REDACTED]

From: S [REDACTED] Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 December 2018 22:54
To: Future Merton [REDACTED]
Subject: Wimbledon masterplan

Dear Merton Council,
We deplore the current "Future Wimbledon" masterplan.

The current masterplan is a thoughtless and short-sighted effort, that will merely serve to convert Wimbledon into a Croydon-like space, with no special features for unique growth in the decades to come.

The development of 18-storey high-rise buildings will not only create an environmental eyesore, but will merely serve to produce business accommodation that is available elsewhere in London, rather than promoting the very special character of Wimbledon as a major arts and sports venue in the capital. We are already internationally known for the tennis, and the expansion in these facilities will be a welcome addition to Wimbledon's unique selling point. We have, over the years, developed a music festival of international repute that is growing and attracts big performing names in music. The October book fest also now has an international reputation. The Polka theatre has the best children's theatre in the capital, and the Wimbledon theatre itself is an extension of the "West end" theatre season. Growing these businesses is vital and the masterplan should focus on how to improve and increase Wimbledon's worth as a major specialist arts centre in London. Eighteen-storey office blocks serve merely to satisfy the short-term construction revenue desired by Merton councillors and will reduce the impact of Wimbledon as a specialist arts centre. Merton council officers are making plans to satisfy revenue needs that cover their short-term in office. These plans will adversely affect Wimbledon in the decades to come. Many councillors do not even live locally and do not appreciate the impact of these plans on the character and "desirability" of Wimbledon as a town in which to live and work. As residents of Wimbledon for the last 32 years, we urge you to consider selflessly what is in the best interests of our town for the next century.

We believe that the masterplan as proposed will merely serve to diminish Wimbledon's uniqueness and destroy it's character and is proposed by those with a short-sighted and blinkered vision of our beautiful town. Please re-think the masterplan, and grow Wimbledon in the best interests of its residents and businesses.

Yours sincerely,
N [REDACTED] and S [REDACTED] Nelson
[REDACTED]